

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. A Frontier Zastava, located approximately 300 meters south of the southernmost part of Plovdivtsi, was constructed during 1948-1949. The code name of this zastava was "Orel". The Zastava consisted of approximately 40 soldiers armed with rifles, submachine guns and rifles. There were four dogs in the Zastava, three of which were specially trained. Their names and coloring were as follows:

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- a. MILIN, dark gray;
- b. BALKAN, black;
- c. ZHULBAS, light brown; and
- d. TRUMAN, dark gray.

2. [redacted] a Frontier Post subordinate to the Orel Zastava which was located on the hill known as Babina Chuka (Hill No. 1413; N 41-25, E 24-50). This was the main observation post of the Zastava and at the same time a secret post. From the hill, Babina Chuka, one can observe the whole length of the border line between the area known as Chengene Khisar (N 41-22, E 24-48) and the old border post no. 12 (N 41-25, E 24-51), located on the highway leading towards Ksanti, Greece. There were always three or four soldiers at this post indicating that it is probably permanent. The guards were changed once every 12 hours, and the post was never left unguarded during the shift. There was telephone communication between this post and the Orel Zastava. During the winter a three or four man patrol lived for a week at a time at this post with food supplied by the Orel Zastava.

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3. To reach the Babina Chuka Post, the soldiers followed a fixed route as follows: they walked south along the river for 150 to 200 meters, then curved in an easterly direction along a path which passed through a small ravine by means of which the soldiers were able to climb the hill. The soldiers were equipped with binoculars and were armed with rifles and submachine guns.

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(Notes: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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4. [] following additional secret posts [] subordinate to the Orel Zastava:

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a. One post was located in the small ravine mentioned in para. 3. above, approximately 1 kilometer due southeast of the Zastava building and half between the Zastava building and Babina Chuka hill. This was a permanent secret post composed of three soldiers. The guard changed every four hours. The changes were not made at the location of the secret post but somewhere along the road between this place and the zastava building. Often an instructor and a dog would be among the personnel of this post. The place where this post was located was called Delon. Usually two of the soldiers were armed with rifles and the third one with a submachine gun.

b. A secret post was located near the old Bulgarian post no. 11 (N 41-25, E 24-50) northeast of Babina Chuka and was known as Palena. The soldiers usually hid themselves somewhere near the partially destroyed building of this old post. Through this place the eastern boundary ("stik") of the Orel Zastava passed. At this post soldiers from the Orel Zastava would meet soldiers from the Zastava near Chepintsi (N 41-26 E 24-53) who were also sent there as a secret post. The guard of the "Palena" post was composed of three soldiers, two armed with rifles and the third with a submachine gun. The soldiers were changed every four hours as follows: 0800, 1200, 1600, 2000, 2400 and 0400 hours. The soldiers reached the Palena post by the following route: from the Zastava building north, through Plovdivtsi and east along a small path which continued straight towards the post. There were no telephone communications between the Palena post and the Zastava building.

c. A secret post was located near the old Bulgarian post no. 10. The guards were responsible for the area known as Surpika (N 41-22, E 24-49). [] this was a permanent secret post manned by two groups of soldiers, the first of which left the Zastava building around 0600 or 0700 hours and remained until 1900 hours. After the return of the first group, the second group left []

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There was a telephone line connecting the Zastava Building with the Surpika Post. The Surpika area is covered by a thick forest which makes concealment very easy. The soldiers reached the Surpika post by walking south along a small path which runs along the river to the old Bulgarian border post no. 10, along the border line, and continuing towards the old post no. 9, located in the place known as Bukova Chuka, north of Chengova Khisar.

d. A secret post known as Iskarut was located in a field approximately 2.5 kilometers south of the Zastava building, beside the river and on its eastern side (N 41-24, E 24-49). The function of this Frontier patrol probably was to guard the people who worked in the field. This post consisted of three soldiers, two armed with rifles and the third with a submachine gun. During the night the soldiers acted as a secret post. Changes of the guard took place somewhere between the Zastava building and the post every four hours at 0800, 1200, 1600, 2000, 2400 and 0400 hours. The telephone line which connected the Surpika post with the Zastava passed through this post.

5. There were no border patrols or secret posts situated between the old Bulgarian border post no. 9 located in the area known as Bukova Chuka and the old post no. 10 located in Surpika. This area can be observed very well from the post located on the hill known as Babina Chuka. [] the areas located west of the Plovdivtsi River were unguarded and not dangerous. Illegal movement is very easy because of the forest and mountains in this area and because of the fact that there were no frontier troops.

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6. During August 1954, the soldier personnel of the Orel Zastava was increased by approximately 10 new soldiers. Soldiers from recruit classes were supposed to be discharged on 1 September 1954 but they were kept on for an additional two months.

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7. The boundaries of the Orel Zastava passed through the following places:
- a. Western Boundary (stik): through the old Bulgarian border post no. 9 (N 41-23, E 24-48) located in Bukova Chuka;
 - b. Eastern Boundary (stik): through the old Bulgarian border post no. 11 (N 41-25, E 24-50) located in Palena northeast of Babina Chuka. (para. 4 a above).
8. In July 1954 the Frontier Troops were issued a new kind of hand grenade. Every soldier going to a post wore two of these new hand grenades which were put in a small bag.
9. Almost every Sunday, a propaganda troupe (agitki) from the nearby villages of from Madan visited the Orel Zastava and organized entertainment in the Zastava courtyard. The entertainment usually lasted three hours. During this time almost everyone at the secret posts or on patrol left their places and went to the heights near the Zastava building in order to watch the entertainment. [redacted] during this time the Frontier zone of the Orel Zastava was almost completely free from border patrols.
10. [redacted] additional Frontier Zastavas:
- a. One approximately two kilometers south of Mochure (N 41-25, E 24-46) Madan Okoliya; and
 - b. A Frontier Zastava (N 41-24, E 24-50) located beside the highway which runs from Ustovo, Bulgaria to Ksanti, Greece.

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